

NEW-YORK AIR POISONED.

SOURCES OF SICKENING STENCHES.
INVESTIGATIONS OF A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE—RE-
PORT OF THE CHAIRMAN, T. B. MUSGRAVE—
NUISANCES OF THE VILEST KIND ON BOTH SIDES
OF THE CITY—THE BOARD OF HEALTH BLAMED
FOR PERMITTING THEM.

Thomas B. Musgrave, as chairman of a citizens' committee, has prepared a report upon stenches and nuisances in this city. He finds that many fuming establishments, slaughter-houses, and other nuisances, which produce the foulest possible odors, are carried on under permits from the Board of Health. He recommends that prompt measures be taken to compel the board to suppress the nuisances. Appended to the report are statements of prominent physicians, who declare that these stenches are exceedingly injurious to the health of residents of New-York.

THE REPORT.

The citizens of upper New-York, who for years have suffered from the sickening smells that have filled the air, arising from fat-rendering establishments and other nuisances, last summer held a public meeting in order to take proper steps for abating these evils. A committee was appointed, of which Thomas B. Musgrave was chairman, to investigate and report the cause and cure of the odors. The report, as prepared by Mr. Musgrave, has been completed.

"This city is by nature," Mr. Musgrave says, "one of the most highly favored spots on earth for pure air. Long and narrow and high in the middle, it slopes down on each side to broad and deep streams of salt water, that flow and reflux with every tide. Lying near the ocean, it is daily fanned by a breeze from land or sea. The winds, from whatever quarter they blow, before entering our streets and dwellings, are sure to be purified and cooled in crossing the broad salt rivers that surround us. We have a Board of Health composed of two gentlemen; one, Charles F. Chandler, Pa. do., salary \$6,500 per year, an eminent chemist and an active, well-paid professor in two colleges; the other, Edward G. Janeway, M. D., a distinguished physician, and presumably overwhelmed with patients, salary, \$5,000. Their clerk is Emmons Clark, the gallant Colonel of the 7th Regiment, salary, \$4,800. Their counsel, learned in sanitary law, has a salary of \$4,500, with a clerk to do the work at \$3,400. This Board has almost despotic power to abate all nuisances in their judgment detrimental to the public health. Until now, however, such nuisances are sharpened by the skill of a sanitary superintendent, salary \$4,500; and he is aided by an assistant at \$2,700 per year, and by a chief clerk to do the work at \$2,000 per year. Then, in order to secure the prompt and efficient performance of their duties, the taxpayers expense \$20,000 annually for salaries, expenses, and the like of this Board. Most of the money goes to pay salaries of themselves and their numerous staff of inspectors, engineers, etc. In addition to this sum, they cause an expense of \$10,000 per year, for building and lighting and lights declared by them to be injurious to health, and can assess the cost upon the property renovated.

"Law has thus supplemented nature in providing perfect safeguards for health. No city should have purer air than ours; and we ought to have the lowest annual death rate of any large town." In the report is inserted a table indicating the average annual death rate per 1,000 inhabitants of the principal cities of the country for the past ten years. It shows that in New-York the average is 28.71—greater than that of any other city; the nearest approach being in Brooklyn, whose rate is 23.50.

The report continues: "The death rate ought not to average nearly over twenty-one in 1,000. Instead of that, it is twenty-eight, or 25 per cent greater than it should be. In other words, 7,000 lives are lost in New-York annually by bad sanitary construction. The destruction of these 7,000 lives means the prostration, mental and physical, of malaria, of a great many thousand others. What is the cause of this? It is not off, or difficult to find. The report tells the date and place of the

nuisances are promptly and strictly enforced. The report is signed by the Chairman of the Committee. He acknowledges the kindness of Drs. E. E. May, Foyder Barker, William A. Hammond and Stephen Smith, for their medical opinions furnished to him. These opinions are appended to the report. Dr. May says: "The atmosphere cannot be impregnated with vapors and gases arising from bone-burning and other establishments, where refuse, animal, vegetable, and other deleterious materials are employed, and the inhabitants of the city are forced to inhale them. The effects arising from these noxious substances are often insidious and slow of development; but during the hot summer months, when the city is more or less impured and emervated by them, we are quite certain that a large number of bowel complaints, diarrhoea, constipation, etc., are directly traceable to these vapors, shown from both sides of the city through the streets. We are also equally certain that a considerable number of deaths are caused annually by these vapors of themselves and their numerous staff of inspectors, engineers, etc. In addition to this sum, they cause an expense of \$10,000 per year, for building and lighting and lights declared by them to be injurious to health, and can assess the cost upon the property renovated.

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